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REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECT

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
JANUARY – MARCH 2016**

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECT

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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Cover Photo: Viktor Prodedovich, REC's Chief of Party, delivering the welcome speech at the Forum "Horticulture Sector of Fergana Valley: Export Perspectives"

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ACRONYMS

B2B	Business to Business
CATF	Central Asian Trade Forum
CAR	Central Asian Republics
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan
COP	Chief of Party
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
EPG	Export Partnership Group
EU	European Union
EEU	Eurasian Economic Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
LOI	Letter of Intent
MEDT	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
MOC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MFERIT	Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PMU	Project Management Unit
REC	USAID Regional Economic Cooperation Project
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
SOW	Scope of Work
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USAID's Regional Economic Cooperation Project (REC) facilitates trade among Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, and large trading partners of these countries, and develops export potential of firms in the region through fostering business network connections and partnerships. REC supports increased sales and exports of several industries including textiles, organic farming, horticulture, fruits and vegetables, packaging, and transport and logistics. It supports these firms through enhancing their export capacity, and providing technical assistance and expertise. Through its grants program, REC also increases economic opportunities and strengthens cooperation among women entrepreneurs in Central and South Asia. This quarterly report covers the period from January to March 2016.

During the reporting period, REC's main accomplishments include:

- On February 1-2, 2016, 50 students and faculty from the Textile Technology and Design Department of the Kazakh University of Technology and Business (KazUTB) attended a master class in Astana, Kazakhstan to learn about textile product development and production processes for the international market. Organized through USAID/REC's grantee SPINNA Circle Ltd., a UK based non-profit organization, two fashion design lecturers from Middlesex University in London trained students and faculty on pattern cutting methodologies, garment construction, sales channels, and international market access. The master class fit the dual education approach pursued by KazUTB, combining traditional academic learning with on-the-job training. With the support of USAID/REC, the tripartite partnership between Middlesex University, SPINNA Circle, and the KazUTB, envisions joint cooperation in areas of common academic interest, knowledge exchange in new technologies, and skills transfer in the field of fashion and textiles.
- On February 4-5, 2016, 30 Tajik women artisans working in the textile industry participated in a workshop in Khudjand, Tajikistan to learn about dynamics and trends within the European apparel market and how to improve and adapt their skills to that market. While there are highly qualified women working in the textile and apparel industry in Central Asia, most lack knowledge on how to design and develop products that are market driven and meet buyers' expectations in terms of quality and price. Hosted by USAID/REC grantee SPINNA Circle, in collaboration with the Women's Development Agency, a Tajik NGO and former USAID/REC grantee, the workshop covered professional product development, international market access, and provided hands-on training. Under the tutelage of two fashion experts from Middlesex University, participants designed and created modern apparel that incorporates traditional Tajik fabric and embroidery.
- On February 11, 2016, the Transport & Logistics Partnership Group conducted a regional meeting of customs brokers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The purpose of the meeting was to create a platform for information and experience exchange among customs brokers who are encountering recent changes as a result of membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan discussed their experiences and challenges related to technology and customs clearance procedures under the

EEU. Customs brokers, customs representatives, and experts in customs regulation agreed that the complexity and confusing nature of the EEU Customs Code requirements make it difficult for lawful compliance.

- On February 25-26, 2016, the REC project, in partnership with GIZ, OSCE, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade of Uzbekistan, the Fergana Region Khokimiyat, and the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Privatization, De-monopolization and Development of Competition hosted a forum on horticultural exports in Fergana, Uzbekistan. The two-day event brought together more than 450 experts, farmers, entrepreneurs, buyers, and sellers representing ten countries, including the Central Asia Republics, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, and Russia to discuss the export capacity and potential of the horticulture sector in the Fergana Valley to increase competitiveness and spur economic growth. As a result, participants signed Memoranda of Cooperation (MOC) and Letters of Intent (LOI) to supply horticulture products from Uzbekistan to international markets valued at \$150 million. The Forum also resulted in \$3.5 million in signed contracts between the Uzbekistan Trading House in Latvia and Uzbek horticulture exporters.
- On February 26, 2016, in conjunction with the Fergana Valley Horticultural Exports Forum, USAID/REC in partnership with GIZ and government partners, hosted a transport and logistics roundtable focusing on fruits and vegetables. 120 representatives from state committees, the Council of Farmers of Uzbekistan, business associations, and T&L companies from Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Switzerland, and the Central Asian Republics discussed new opportunities and current issues in transporting fresh fruit and vegetable products from the Fergana Valley to foreign markets. The roundtable provided a platform for public and private transport and logistics companies to discuss future areas of cooperation. “AsstraA Forwarding,” a Swiss company, signed a contract for transportation of goods with one of the biggest retail chains in Kazakhstan – “Magnum” – valued at \$678,000. Representatives from Latvian and Lithuanian transport companies also officially invited their Uzbek counterparts to visit the Trading Houses in the Baltic States.

SECTION I TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION

SUPPORT EXPORT PARTNERSHIPS GROUPS

A. Export Development in Uzbekistan

REC has actively encouraged increasing Uzbekistan's horticultural export potential. On February 25-26, 2016, REC conducted a horticulture forum in Fergana Valley, dedicated to increasing horticulture export capacity and increase its competitiveness in the region. In partnership with GIZ, OSCE, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade of Uzbekistan, the Fergana Region Khokimiyat, and the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Privatization, Demopolization and Development of Competition, the two-day forum resulted in participants signing Memoranda of Cooperation (MOC) and Letters of Intent (LOI) to supply Uzbek fruit and vegetable products to international markets, valued at \$150 million.



A representative of METRO Cash & Carry (Kazakhstan) Maxim Mescheryakov negotiates with Uzbek exporters, February 26, 2016, Fergana

The forum brought together more than 450 participants, including exporters from the Fergana region, international trade facilitation experts, representatives of business associations, transport and logistics companies, and retail chains from Central Asia, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, and Germany. The forum gave Uzbek entrepreneurs an opportunity to showcase the export capacity of the Fergana Valley's horticultural sector, and provided a platform for public and private sector representatives to discuss means of optimizing export volumes and enhancing the competitiveness of the horticultural sector. REC cooperated closely with the government of Uzbekistan throughout the event planning and organization process. The delegation of importers included four of Eurasia's largest retail chains: Metro Cash&Carry and Magnum Cash&Carry (Kazakhstan), Maxima (Baltic States), and Magnit (Russia).



USAID/Central Asia Regional Mission Director George Deikun delivers opening remarks at the Fergana Forum, February 25, 2016, Fergana

The Forum featured training sessions, roundtables, B2B meetings, a horticultural trade fair, and field study visits to modern orchards and cold storage warehouses. Participants discussed strategies for increasing the quality and quantity of horticultural exports by fulfilling the requirements of retailers, maximizing delivery efficiency, observing tariff regulations, and implementing international best practices in organic horticulture. The Forum addressed the vital role that efficient transport and logistics play in ensuring that products reach their destination markets in the most efficient fashion possible. During the Trade Fair, 25

participating horticultural and textiles companies showcased their products, established business contacts with international buyers (retail chains and distributors) and negotiated trade deals at

optimal prices. Participants signed MOCs and LOIs valued at \$150 million to supply Uzbek fresh and processed horticultural products, dried fruits, nuts, and textiles. The Forum also resulted in \$3.5 million in signed contracts between the Uzbekistan Trading House in Latvia and Uzbek horticulture exporters.

Uzbek agricultural firms including Oltiarik Agroinvest, Namuna Meva-Sabzavot, Dangara, Roshidon Agro, Tojikhon Shodieva, Kirguli Aavdo, and Beshariq Vegetables signed Letters of Intent with importers from the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) to supply fresh fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, and nuts valued at \$66.2 million. Uzbek firms also signed LOIs with the following organizations:

- Association of Trade Enterprises of Kazakhstan (\$13.2 million)
- Alysh Dan, an agricultural cooperative of Kyrgyzstan (\$33.3 million)
- Pro-Baltikum, a German trading company (\$10 million)
- UAB JOTAGRIS, a Lithuanian trading company (\$3 million)
- Uzbekistan trading house in Latvia (\$1 million)

Events such as the Horticultural Forum, provide exporters, government officials, and other stakeholders a platform to bridge the public-private sector gap to identify practicable solutions to challenges, and maximize the competitiveness of Uzbek exports in foreign markets, and increase the horticulture sector's contribution to Uzbekistan's GDP. The Forum also received wide media coverage and was featured in more than seven publications and broadcasts.

B. Central Asian Trade Forum

The sixth annual Central Asian Trade Forum (CATF) will be September 7-8, 2016, and REC's preparations are well underway. To date, REC has conducted meetings with various stakeholders to ensure close cooperation, and agree on a common vision that is reflected by the participants and agenda. REC is currently identifying partnerships and areas of collaboration with other international organizations that have similar objectives to USAID. REC has drafted an agenda and timetable, and identified a setting, certain speakers and many participants for CATF VI.

C. Upcoming activities

- CATF VI Steering Committee Meeting, Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 2016
- Conference on diversification of exports from Uzbekistan, Tashkent (TBD), Uzbekistan, May 26-27, 2016

SUPPORT WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM (WES) FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES

A. SPINNA Circle Grant

Astana Training Workshop

In June 2015, REC awarded its second grant to the UK-based non-profit organization SPINNA Circle Ltd. The overall objective of this grant is to increase the competitiveness and visibility of women in the textiles and apparel industry in Central Asia through sustainable business practices. Within the framework of this grant, REC and SPINNA, in cooperation with Kazakh University of Technology and Business (KazUTB) and the London-based Middlesex University, organized a two-day master class in Astana, Kazakhstan, on February 1-2, 2016. More than 50 students and staff from the Textile Technology and Design Department of KazUTB took part in this event, which included sessions on product development and marketing. Kiran Gobin and Emma Dick – two fashion design lecturers from Middlesex University – trained KazUTB students and staff on creative pattern cutting, garment construction, sales channels, and international market access. The master class perfectly fit the dual education approach pursued by KazUTB, which merges theory and practice by supplementing classical academic methodologies with vocational training activities.



Emma Dick, SPINNA Circle, (left) and Mereke Tankibayeva, Head of International Cooperation Department of KazUTB (right) signed the Memorandum of Intent, February 1, 2016, Astana

REC also facilitated a tripartite partnership among Middlesex University, SPINNA Circle and KazUTB. They formally established cooperation through a memorandum of intent which will enable them to share and exchange new technologies, academic advances, and marketing practices.

Khudjand Training Workshop



Kiran Gobin, SPINNA's trainer, explains how to adapt the basic pattern block into a design, February 4, 2016, Khudjand.

More than 30 women artisans working in the textile industry participated in a two-day workshop in Khudjand, Tajikistan, February 4-5, 2016 to learn about the European apparel market and how to improve and adapt their skills to that market. Many of the highly qualified women working in the textile industry in Central Asia, have insufficient knowledge on how to design and develop products that are market driven and meet buyers' quality, price, and aesthetic expectations. Organized through REC and implemented by SPINNA, in collaboration with REC's former grantee Women's Development Agency, the workshop covered business

fundamentals, professional product development, and market access, while also providing hands-on experience. Under the guidance of two experts from Middlesex University, participants designed and created modern apparel that incorporated traditional Tajik fabric and embroidery.

REC facilitated the partnership between the SPINNA and the Women's Development Agency. The two parties signed a MOC to enable informational exchange and joint cooperation to further improve economic opportunities for women textile artisans.

Due to the operating environment in Uzbekistan and security concerns in Turkey, SPINNA Circle has updated its activities under the current grant in order to include training workshop in Tajikistan and study tour to the UK, to replace the activities initially slated to be held in Uzbekistan and Turkey. A new modification to the Grant Agreement, which reflects these changes, has been agreed by REC and SPINNA Circle.

B. Business Association of Women-Entrepreneurs “ASIA” grant

The Uzbek authorities abruptly cancelled both the Women’s Roundtable and a training seminar on financial literacy, which were planned to be a part of the Horticultural Forum in Fergana. Instead, Uzbek and Central Asian members of the ASIA Association organized a B2B meeting in Tashkent where the participating women signed letters of intent to supply goods and services valued at more than \$470,000. Moreover, as some of the participating members were carrying their products to showcase at the Horticultural Forum’s Trade Fair, they sold these products, valued at more than \$1,200, to the participating women.



Due to difficulties with obtaining authorizations from the state bodies in Uzbekistan, REC and ASIA signed a new modification to add a capacity building training workshop to be held in Almaty at the end of April as a substitute to the activities initially scheduled for Uzbekistan.

C. Upcoming Activities

- Roundtable “Women-entrepreneurs of Central Asia: Experience, Challenges and Development Prospects”, Dushanbe, April 7-8, 2016
- Capacity building training workshop for members of the ASIA Association, Almaty, April 28, 2016
- Capacity building training workshop for women in the textile sector, Khujand, June 2016
- Study visit of selected SPINNA Circle grant’s beneficiaries to London, UK, July 2016

HELP CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT PRO-TRADE POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND PROCESSES

A. Fergana Valley Transport and Logistics Roundtable

During the second day of the Fergana Forum, REC organized a transport and logistics roundtable to discuss the increasing importance of effective transport and logistics in ensuring the continued growth in export volumes from the Fergana Valley. 120 participants, including representatives from State Committees, the Council of Farmers of Uzbekistan, business associations, and transport and logistics companies from the EU, Switzerland, and Belarus, addressed key issues regarding the transportation of fruit and vegetable products from the Fergana Valley to international markets.

The presentation “The New Railroad Line ‘Angren-Pop’: New Opportunities for Export of Horticultural Products from Fergana Valley to EEU Markets, Other CIS Countries’ Markets, and EU” made by Mr. Otabek Erkaboyev, a representative of the Uzbekistan Railroad company, fostered great interest among participants of the transport and logistics roundtable. Predicted to launch in April, 2016, this railroad line will transport approximately 4.6 million tons of goods per year, helping Fergana Valley goods, particularly horticultural goods, to reach new markets.

The presentation “Capabilities of the Baltic and German Sea Ports for Exporting Uzbek Horticultural Products” made by Mr. Uldis Papans, a representative of the Latvian Association of Stevedoring Companies, was also of great interest to participants. Mr. Uldis Papans noted that in recent years, Latvian, Lithuanian and German ports have been increasingly used by Uzbek exporters to ship of fruit and vegetables to the EU, among other destinations. In 2013-2014 the total volume of Uzbek cargo transshipment to these ports was 150,000 tons.

Ms. Yeva Nagel, a representative of Rostock Port (Germany) expressed her port’s interest in developing trade relations with Uzbek entrepreneurs. She invited all participants to consider Rostock Port as a load transfer point for Uzbek goods.



Ms. Yeva Nagel, a representative of Rostock Port (Germany) negotiates future plans and cooperation with Mr. Rakhmatov Dilshod, Khokim of Fergana, Fergana T&L roundtable

Both the Fergana Forum and the transport and logistics roundtable provided platforms for establishing of business contacts among Uzbek entrepreneurs, international experts, and the Khokimiyat of the city of Fergana. As a result of REC’s facilitation, the Khokim of Fergana city and representatives of Uzbek transport and logistics companies have planned a visit to Rostock Port, Germany. Representatives from Latvian and Lithuanian transport companies also formally invited their Uzbek counterparts to visit Trading Houses in the Baltic States.

During the Fergana Forum, participants signed MOCs and LOIs valued at \$150 million to supply horticultural and textile products from Uzbekistan. According to REC’s estimate, the transportation services provided by REC-supported companies to deliver these products will value at more than \$10 million. The networking established during the roundtable resulted in a deal between the Asstra Forwarding Company (Switzerland) and the Magnum Retail Chain

(Kazakhstan) valued at \$678,000. Additionally, the Freight Operators Association of Kyrgyzstan, on behalf of Kyrgyz entrepreneurs, expressed their readiness to commence negotiations for the import of 500,000 tons of Uzbek fruit and vegetables to the Kyrgyz Republic.

Forum participants appreciated the efforts undertaken by REC to facilitate the development of transport and logistics in the region and kindly requested that REC continue its support by organizing B2B meetings, seminars on implementing of the new customs code, and events on improving the regulatory and legal framework of international freight.

B. Transport & Logistics Partnership Group Regional Meeting

On February 11, 2016, REC supported a meeting of customs brokers in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, which was organized jointly with the Transport & Logistics (T&L) Partnership Group. The meeting facilitated the creation of a platform for exchanging information and experience among customs brokers who are adapting to their countries' membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Participants from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan discussed their experiences and challenges related to technology requirements and customs clearance procedures under the EEU. Customs officials and experts agreed that the complexity of the new EEU Customs Code requirements will make it difficult for customs officials to comply. Though, unlike the other three participating countries, Uzbekistan is not a member of the EEU, it is nonetheless essential for Uzbek entrepreneurs and officials to be aware of changes in the EEU customs requirements, since the EEU is such a major trading partner for Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, members also approved the Scope of Work for an analysis on international road transport legislation and prospects for its harmonization in Central Asia. This SOW will be performed by GIZ. Preliminary results of the analysis will be presented at the next T&L Partnership Group meeting on April 4-5 in Dushanbe. At the upcoming meeting, participants will review an analysis of the Central Asian legal framework regarding the facilitation of international freight transportation, and produce a set of actionable recommendations.

C. Upcoming Activities

- T&L Partnership Group meeting, April 4-5, 2016, Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- Roundtable on cooperation with Uzbek customs on new customs code, May 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

SECTION II COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

During the reporting period, REC continued promoting awareness of its mission, objectives, activities, and initiatives. REC maintains a website (<http://car-rec.net/>) and Facebook account, posting photos from its events, press-releases, media advisories, relevant regional news, and training materials. During this reporting period, targeted press releases, announcements, and the newsletter New Silk Road Highlights and Achievements were disseminated to inform, promote, and increase public awareness about REC's activities. The press releases/announcements were issued and posted on the website and Facebook account. The Forum "Fergana Valley Horticulture Sector: Export Perspectives" in Fergana was attended by 18 media outlets invited by REC, as a result the event received wide media coverage.

The Horticultural forum was featured in the Uzbek and CA media. Below are the links to some publications and broadcasting:

<http://www.haqida.uz/news/3658-usaid-sodeystvuet-diversifikacii-eksporta-plodoovoschnoy-produkcii-iz-ferganskoy-doliny.html>
<http://www.uzdaily.com/articles-id-35288.htm>
[http://anhor.uz/news/usaid-pomog-fermeram-zaklyuchity-kontrakty-na-\\$130-mln](http://anhor.uz/news/usaid-pomog-fermeram-zaklyuchity-kontrakty-na-$130-mln)
<http://podrobno.uz/cat/economic/ssha-okazali-sodeystvie-fermeram-uzbekistana-na-130-mln/>
<http://www.ut.uz/ru/ekonomika/usaid-okazalo-sodeystvie-fermeram-uzbekistana-na-130-mln>
<http://1news.uz/ru/ekonomika/usaid-sodeystvuet-uvlichenii-eksporta-plodoovoshnoy-produkcii-iz-ferganskoy-doliny/>
<http://telegraf.uz/ekonomika/rezulytatam-foruma-stali-dogovora-na-bolee-chem-130-mln-dollarov>
<https://kun.uz/2016/03/10/usaid-ozbekistonlik-fermerlarga-130-mln-dollar-ajratadi/>
http://gazeta.norma.uz/publish/doc/text122153_gotovsya_k_uborochnoy_zimoy1?paper=ntv
http://e-gazeta.norma.uz/publish/doc/text122004_gotovsya_k_uborochnoy_zimoy?paper=ntv
[http://anhor.uz/news/usaid-pomog-fermeram-zaklyuchity-kontrakty-na-\\$130-mln](http://anhor.uz/news/usaid-pomog-fermeram-zaklyuchity-kontrakty-na-$130-mln)
<https://www.gazeta.uz/2016/03/10/usaid>
<http://www.ca-news.org/news:1180899/?from=rss>
http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov/usaid_030916.html
<http://uznews.uz/category/Economy/1400>
<http://nuz.uz/ekonomika-i-finansy/11409-eksport-plodoovoschnoy-produkcii-uvelichivaetsya.html>
<http://www.uz24.uz/uz/economics/farhonada-farhona-vodiysining-meva-sabzavotchilik-tarmoulari:-eksport-saloiyati-mavzusida-haluarobi>
<http://ferghana.uz/component/k2/item/1069-meva-sabzovot-eksporti-yanada-oshadi.html>
<http://www.review.uz/index.php/novosti-main/item/7127-25-26-fevralya-2016-goda-sostoitsya-forum-plodoovoshchnaya-otrasl-ferganskoj-doliny-eksportnyj-potentsial>
<http://news.invest.kz/101981924-usaid-podderzhivaet-eksport-plodoovoschnoy-produkcii-v-ferganskoy-doline>
http://russian.news.cn/2016-02/18/c_135107632.htm
<http://www.turkistonpress.uz/article/20843>
<http://telegraf.uz/ekonomika/v-fergane-proydet-forum-posvyashenny-razvitiyu-plodoovoshnoy-otrasli>
<http://agronews.uz/ru/news/116-agrobiznes/948-kak-effektivno-realizovat-eksportnyj-potentsial-plodoovoshchnoj-otrasli>

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SECTION III PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

To track the project's progress, REC has developed life-of-project indicators for impact and outcome levels that measure achievements and expected results. There are indicators for each activity objective, as well as indicators that respond to the overall program goal. To date, REC has achieved the following cumulative and quarter results:

- Signed protocols of intent and memoranda of cooperation in quarter two exceeded \$150 million in value, and the value of the executed deals reached \$678,000
- 428 firms received project-supported capacity-building assistance to increase exports in quarter two
531 participants attended project-supported trade and investment capacity building trainings in quarter two

Annex A. Calendar of Events

Dates	Meeting / Event	Location
April 4-5	T&L Partnership Group meeting	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
April 7-8	Roundtable “Women-entrepreneurs of Central Asia. Experience, Challenges and Development Prospects”	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
April 28	ASIA Association Financial Literacy Training	Almaty, Kazakhstan
May 26-27	Conference on diversification of exports from Uzbekistan	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
May (TBD)	Steering Committee Meeting	Almaty, Kazakhstan
May (TBD)	Roundtable on cooperation with Uzbek customs on new customs code	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
June (TBD)	Training workshop for women in the textile sector by SPINNA Circle (grantee)	Khujand, Tajikistan
July (TBD)	SPINNA Circle (grantee) study tour to London	London, UK

Annex B. Grants Pipeline – January – March 2016

Name of the Grantee and Grant Number	Project name and brief description of the objectives	Amount and Period of Performance	Milestone Payments
Business Association of Women-Entrepreneurs “ASIA” Grant No. REC-2015-06	<i>Expansion of economic opportunities and cooperation of women entrepreneurs of Central Asia and Afghanistan</i> The objective of the proposed grant activity is to develop the Secretariat of the Association and build capacity of the Secretariat and members of the Association through organizing trainings and public events, namely: training seminars on development of women entrepreneurship and regional cooperation for the secretariat and members of the Association; breakout sessions on gender equality in Central Asia in the framework of the VIII Astana Economic Forum; Roundtable for women-entrepreneurs in Tashkent; Roundtable on supporting women entrepreneurs of Central Asia and Afghanistan in the framework of the Central Asian Trade Forum (CATF) and participate in the CATF Trade Fair; Roundtable for women entrepreneurs in Dushanbe.	Total Value: \$100,000 Period of Performance: April 23, 2015 – May 23, 2016	Milestone 1 (\$25,000): Capacity building through preparation for and participation in Central Asia and Afghanistan Women's International Forum in Astana, in the framework of the VIII Astana Economic Forum (Kazakhstan) and holding breakout sessions, completed on April 27, 2015 Milestone 2 (\$3,000): Capacity building through preparation to training seminars on development of women entrepreneurship and regional cooperation, completed on June 12, 2015 Milestone 3 (\$15,000): Capacity building through training seminars on development of women entrepreneurship and regional cooperation and launching preparation to the Roundtable on supporting women entrepreneurship in the framework of Almaty CATF V, completed on July 23, 2015 Milestone 4 (\$15,000) : Capacity building through preparation of the Roundtable on supporting women entrepreneurship in the framework of Almaty CATF V, completed on September 15, 2015 Milestone 5 (\$16,000) Capacity building through preparation of the Roundtable on women's entrepreneurship in Tashkent-completed on October 15, 2015

			Milestone 6, 7 (\$18,000) Capacity building through preparation of the Roundtable for women entrepreneurs in Dushanbe completed on February 1, 2016.
SPINNA Circle Ltd. Grant No. REC-2015-07	<i>Strengthening networks in Central Asia and developing markets for women entrepreneurs in textiles through SPINNA Circle.</i> The overall objective of this grant is to increase the competitiveness and visibility of women in textiles and clothing from Central Asia, primarily in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan by creating sustainable business practices. The grant will also build upon existing networks created in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in 2014 by SPINNA, facilitate design collaborations between the countries and promote regional textile skills so as to enable the growth of sustainable trade regionally and internationally for women artisans.	Total Value: \$170,000 Period of Performance: June 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016	Milestone 1 (\$30,000): Work plan and needs assessment agenda, completed on June 30, 2015 Milestone 2 (\$ 25,000): Training and capacity building (preparation), completed on August 15,2015 Milestone 3 (\$30,000) Market linkages events, completed on December 15, 2015